LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

FEROZ KHAN

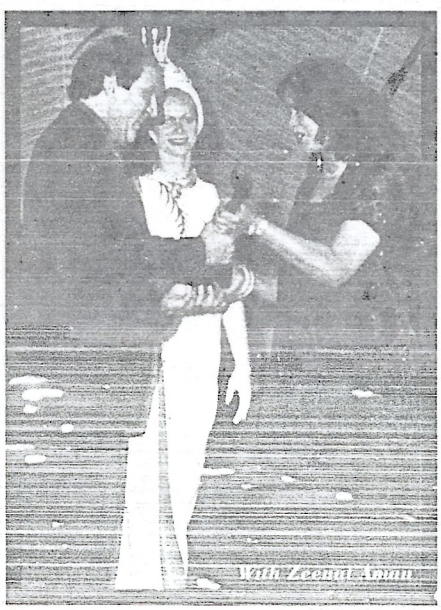
Honestly, this award means the world to me. It has made me conscious that my work over the decades has been appreciated. I was almost in tears when Zeenat Aman handed the trophy to me.

The night I was informed that I would be the recipient of the award, I couldn't sleep a wink.

When I first came to Mumbai I had no money in my pocket, so I used to work at a billiards table to make ends meet.

I entered this profession a couple of years before my younger brother Sanjay Khan but he became a bigger star. I managed to make an impact even with other heroes in all the two-hero films I did... so many of them became jubilee hits.

I've never indulged in underhand tactics to grab roles. But I must say that I've often been at the receiving end. On the first day of the shoot for *Oonche Log*, Raaj Kumar advised me on how to say my dialogue. I very politely told him, "Raaj*ji aap apna kaam kijeeye, main apna kaam karoonga.*"



There was no problem between us after that. But he'd still do strange things during scenes in which he had his back to the camera. He'd look sideways while saying his dialogue. Imagine, he'd be giving cues to the wall instead of me.

I'd love to act even today. But I've turned down two-three films recently. I'm too independent. When I work in an outside film, I feel like a paid labourer. And that bugs me.

Somehow the thrill of making movies gives me a greater rush. But if I'm offered a role which appeals to my sensibilities, I'd certainly jump at it.

I got lead roles only after I directed *Apradh*. I turned down two or three films with Amitabh Bachchan including *Hera Pheri* which became a huge hit.

While growing up, I watched a lot of cowboy movies... the only Hindi film I'd seen before entering this profession was *Kismet*. I was fond of horse riding and the high life and I tried to infuse my style in my movies. If people want to label me Cowboy Khan, that's okay by me.

I've always been a loner. I enjoy my own company, I've been away from the industry because I just didn't feel comfortable with a lot of the people here. I feel I should interact with the media more after winning this award.

I'd say I'm still pleasant looking. I'm hot-tempered but now I'm like a bottle of soda. My anger is only momentary. You mellow with the passing years.

I've had my wicked, wicked days. The best way to describe myself would be the phrase, "I'm a man amongst men but better amongst women." You can be either married or happy. It happened once but it didn't work out. And I've never felt the need to marry again.

I've been a good father. The kids and I share a fabulous relationship. With their parents having divorced when they were barely 10 or 11 years old, it must have been tough on Fardeen and Laila. They love their mother as much as they love me. I've no grouse if they love their mother, they must.

Fardeen and I are verrry close, at the same time we give each other space. I don't invade his privacy and he doesn't encroach into mine. We've discussed every aspect of life—be it his profession, women or sex.

There have been moments of love-hate between my brothers but this happens in every family. In life, you can choose your friends but you cannot choose your brothers. Even today, among us five brothers few are talking and few are sulking with each other.

That doesn't mean we don't love each other. I was in charge of my family for a long time and the others look upon me as a father figure. We've had our differences but we've always got back together. All five of us are hot-headed. We've inherited this trait from our father, it's the Khan legacy.

I'm planning two films right now, films which will be appreciated by the cognoscenti as well as the masses.